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American Colonization Society.

Information about going to Liberia

INFORMATION ABOUT GOING TO LIBERIA.

We are constantly receiving letters in which the following questions are, in substance, asked. We have therefore condensed the facts into the following form:

Question 1. At what season of the year is it best to embark for Liberia?

Answer 1. The first day of May and the first day of November are the times that vessels usually leave this country for Liberia. There is very little, if any, choice between these two seasons of the year as a time to arrive in that Republic.

Q. 2. How long is the voyage, and is there much danger that we shall be lost on the way?

A. 2. The length of the voyage is from thirty to forty days. The American Colonization Society has been sending for upwards of fifty years and has never lost a vessel with emigrants on board!

Q. 3. What ought we to take with us, both for use on the voyage and after we get there?

A. 3. Every emigrant ought to be well supplied with clothing, both for summer and winter, similar to that which he wears in this country. There is no winter in Liberia, but during the rainy season, health is preserved and promoted by wearing flannel, or warm clothing. He ought also to have a good mattress and bed-clothes, which he will need to use on shipboard and after landing. If he is a mechanic, he ought to have the tools of his trade. If he is a farmer, he ought to be well supplied with axes, hoes, spades, saws, augers, &c. And, as every family is expected to keep house and live by themselves, they ought to have a good supply of table furniture and cooking utensils. It is not possible to take *chairs, tables, bedsteads*, and other large articles of furniture with them, as they occupy too much room in the ship. But whatever is convenient and necessary in housekeeping and of small compass, they ought to take. A keg of nails, a bale or two of domestics, and some greenbacks, or specie or gold coin, would be

of use to them in erecting their houses, and paying for any labor they might need, during the first few months of their residence in Liberia.

Q. 4. How much land is given to each emigrant?

A. 4. By the laws of Liberia, each emigrant on his arrival is given a town lot, or ten acres of land. If he is the head of a family, the quantity of land is increased according to the number of his family, not exceeding twenty-five acres. This allowance may seem small, but it is abundantly sufficient for all his necessities until he is able to buy more for himself. Twenty-five acres of land there will produce as much as one hundred acres almost anywhere in the United States.

Q. 5. Can I educate my children there, and what will it cost?

A. 5. By a law of Liberia, all parents are required to send their children to school. In some of the settlements the schools are good. A college, the materials and building of which cost \$20,000, is in operation at Monrovia. All the Professors are colored men. The natives are at peace with the Liberians, and are generally anxious to have their children educated.

Q. 6. What assistance will the Colonization Society render me in getting to Liberia?

A. 6. So numerous have the applications become, that the Society will hereafter give the preference, all other things being equal, to those who will pay a part or the whole of the cost of their passage to and settlement in Liberia.

Q. 7. How can I make a living in Liberia?

A. 7. In the same way that you would make one anywhere else; that is, by industry and economy. During the first six months after arrival in Liberia you become acclimated, and can open and plant your land, build a house on it, raise a crop, and have everything in readiness to live comfortably thereafter. Those competent to teach school and good accountants command from three to eight hundred dollars a year. Blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, brickmakers, cabinet-makers, shipwrights, &c., &c., can always find employment at good wages. The *farmer* need fear no want. This question has been answered by the editor of the *Liberia Herald*, who has lived there for many years, and we cannot do better than quote his words, viz:

“We give a list of such meats, poultry, birds, fruits, fish, and edibles as are in general use with us in their appropriate season.

“ANIMALS AND FOWLS.—*Domesticated*—Cows, bullocks, swine, sheep, goats, ducks, fowls, turkeys. *Wild*—Deer in abundance; partridges, pigeons, goats, doves, squirrels, ducks, rice birds.

“FRUITS.—Watermelon, muskmelon, mango plum, orange, rose apple, sour sop, guava, tamarind, plantain, bananas, grammadilla, limes, lemons.

“FISH.—Mullett, whiting, perch, bream, pike, baracouta, mackerel, herring, carp, sun, drum, catfish, grippers, oysters, crabs.

“EDIBLES.—Sweet potatoes, arrowroot, turnips, carrots, shilote, cympling, chiota, pawpaw, lima beans, ochra, peas, radishes, beets, cabbages, snaps, cucumbers, greens, salads, cassavas, yams, corn.”

The Rev. A. F. Russell, of Clay-Ashland, Liberia, another citizen who has been there for years, writes on the same subject thus, (in speaking of what should be said to persons in the United States who think of going to Liberia,) viz :

“If they be farmers, point them to the soil, the fertility of which cannot be exaggerated, producing everything a tropical clime can produce in ample abundance ; the arm answering, though not necessarily in all cases, the place of the ox ; the hoe answering for the plow, if we prefer, and in our light soil does almost as well perhaps. Labor and patience, two thirds of the labor, too, that it would take to support a man in the United States, will reward the workman thirty, sixty, a hundred fold—the profits will sweeten the toil. A coffee tree once planted and reared (which takes four years) will yield its increase, two crops a year, year after year, bringing its reward with it—a hundred, a thousand, and tens of thousands will do the same, and certainly the scions or the seed are to be bought in sufficient quantities in Liberia. Arrowroot, ginger, pinders, and pepper grow with almost half trouble, yielding in full abundance ; and as for fruits, the orange, lime, lemon, sour sop, guava, mango, &c., we will place Liberia against any country in the world, and with a fraction of labor, compared with the benefits they yield. Vegetables—the yam, potatoes, cassava, plantains, Indian corn, beans, peas, &c.—time would fail us to tell. Put them in the earth, and they are as sure to produce as the God of nature is to bring about the seasons.”

Q. 8. Can I be as healthy in Liberia as I am in the United States ?

A. 8. Some constitutions may be more healthy there than here. For old settlers Liberia is doubtless more healthy than many parts of the United States. The deaths there among such for several years past have not been more than three per cent.

We make this general remark in connection with the last two ques-

tions. The great advantage which the colored man gets by going to Liberia is *not* as to his *eating or drinking or making money*, but in his *social and moral* condition. He becomes a *man*. He is no longer despised as of another race, but is treated as an equal and as a brother, and secures immense advantages for his children. Those who can and do appreciate these, and go to Liberia, will never regret it. Of such emigrants Mr. Russell, whose language we have before quoted, makes the following remarks:

“ They not only see that every improvement belongs to themselves and children, but good sound sense and industry tells them to go forward, and they obey, looking upon Liberia as theirs and the home of their children; its strength their safety, its wealth their property, and its prosperity their glory and the salvation from degradation of their children. As the hope of Liberia’s glory, present as well as future, rises before such men, it beckons them onward. They enjoy ‘freedom’ in every true sense of that word. They love our laws because they are wholesome; they are ours, made by legislators of our choice. They love liberty for what it is in and of itself.”

We are expecting to send a large number of the more enterprising and educated class. The independent position of Liberia renders this very desirable. Her citizens have the entire responsibility of their government, and need all the talent, wisdom, and energy they can summon to their aid. We think that the intelligent and wealthy colored people of the United States would have some ambition to share in the splendid results to be achieved through the agency of Liberia. Surely, to aid in laying the foundation for a nation, in maturing institutions and laws for the government of a great people, and in redeeming an immense continent from pagan darkness and barbarity, is a work infinitely more sublime and glorious than can possibly be performed by any of the colored people *in this country*, however favored may be their position, enlarged their opportunities, and determined their energy and perseverance. When the historian writes up the labors of their race, who will stand far above all comparison, if not the bold and prosperous pioneers in the only successful effort ever made for their social, civil, and religious redemption?

